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Attorney General's office secures \$1.8 million in Medicaid fraud recoveries in 2010

Wilmington – The Attorney General's office announced today that its Medicaid Fraud Control Unit secured over \$1.8 million in healthcare fraud recoveries for the Delaware Medicaid program in 2010.

"Every dollar stolen from the Delaware Medicaid program makes it harder for the State to fund critical services, costs taxpayers in their wallets, and reduces the availability of healthcare to those who cannot afford coverage on their own," Attorney General Beau Biden said. "Over the past four years, we have recovered well over \$5 million for the Delaware Medicaid Program, and this money goes directly back into providing care for our State's citizens. We will continue to aggressively pursue those who defraud Medicaid, especially during these challenging economic times as more Delawareans and our State government struggle to pay for essential healthcare services."

Settlements with pharmaceutical manufacturers AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline returned more than \$800,000 to the Delaware Medicaid program in 2010. The third-largest recovery, totaling \$230,000, was secured by the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's office for the District of Delaware. This settlement, with Wilmington Neurology Consultants and Christiana Care Health System, resulted from violations of the federal Anti-Kickback Statute and Physician Self-Referral Law, also known as the "Stark Statute". In exchange for lower fees, Christiana Care had accepted Wilmington Neurology Associates as the exclusive provider of EEG services. In total, 16 separate investigations secured the return of \$1,826,000 to the Delaware Medicaid Program.

The Attorney General's office continues to enhance its investigative efforts to meet the growing threat of fraud, abuse, and waste in the Delaware Medicaid program. Cooperative efforts between the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, other states' Medicaid Fraud Control Units, federal authorities, and the National Association of Medicaid Fraud Control Units have proven effective in protecting the Delaware Medicaid program from Medicaid providers, pharmaceutical companies, and other health care providers who defraud Medicaid. In addition, the Attorney General's office has partnered with federal authorities to establish a Healthcare Task Force, bringing together representatives from law enforcement, government, and the private sector, including the healthcare and insurance industries, to better identify, investigate and prosecute those who defraud the Medicaid program.

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